

REMARKS

Claims 9, 10, 13, 15, 20, and 22 have been amended. Claims 2-5, 7, 11, 12, 14, 16-19, 21, and 23-52 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 20, and 22 are currently pending in the application. Applicants have amended the claims to remove multiple dependencies, to provide proper antecedent basis, and to address other matters of form. The foregoing amendments introduce no new matter and are not related to issues of patentability.

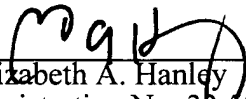
Entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is respectfully in order and requested.

Attached hereto as Appendix A is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendments. Appendix A is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made." Also attached hereto as Appendix B is a complete set of the claims that will be pending upon entry of the amendments presented herein.

If there are any questions regarding the amendments to the application, we invite the Examiner to call Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

Please amend claims 9, 10, 13, 15, 20, and 22 as follows.

9. A recombinant polynucleotide encoding or complementary to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide, for example a fusion polypeptide, according to [any one of] Claim[s] 1 [to 8].

10. A recombinant polynucleotide suitable for expressing a polypeptide according to [any of] Claim[s] 1 [to 8].

13. A method of making a polypeptide as defined in [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 8], the method comprising culturing a host cell transformed with a polynucleotide vector construct comprising a polynucleotide suitable for expressing the polypeptide of claim 1 [according to Claim 12] and isolating said polypeptide from said host cell.

15. An antibody reactive towards a polypeptide according to [any one of] Claim[s] 1 [to 8] or having an amino acid sequence given in claim 1.

20. A method of treating or preventing obesity in a patient, the method comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of an antibody as defined in Claim 15 [or 16, a polypeptide as defined in Claim 17 or polynucleotide as defined in Claim 18 or an antagonist as defined in Claim 26 or 27].

22. A method of identifying a polypeptide (interacting polypeptide) that is capable of interacting with a polypeptide as defined in claim [17] 1, or that is capable of interacting with a polypeptide containing the sequence GAIPRRH, the method comprising the steps

of (1) exposing the said polypeptide to a test composition that may comprise a said interacting polypeptide, (2) detecting an interaction between the said polypeptide and a said interacting polypeptide and optionally (3) identifying and/or isolating the said interacting polypeptide.

Please cancel claims 2-5, 7, 11, 12, 14, 16-19, 21, and 23-52.